

Message Text

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SUBJECT: EDITORIAL COMMENT ON GREEK ELECTIONS

1. MAJORITY OF ATHENS NEWSPAPERS PROVIDED EDITORIAL COMMENTARY ON RESULTS NOVEMBER 17 PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. KATHIMERINI SUGGESTED IN COURSE OF THREE SEPARATE EDITORIALS THAT GREEK PEOPLE HAD SHOWN DISDAIN IN THEIR BALLOTING FOR THE "LEFT-OVERS OF THE PAST SEVEN YEARS" AND DEMONSTRATED DISAPPROVAL AS WELL FOR THOSE WHO "COVERED WITH CLOAK OF NOVELTY THEIR OLD PARTY POLICIES." ELENI VLACHOU PAPER FURTHER COMMENTS THAT GREEK VOTERS NOT ONLY SHOWED THEIR STERN DISAPPROVAL OF CARAMANLIS' OPPONENTS BUT ALSO PRESENTED PM WITH "EQUALLY SERIOUS MANDATE". FINALLY, KATHIMERINI ASSERTS THAT NEA DEMOKRATIA VICTORY HAS FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANCE: (A) IT HONORED THE RESISTANCE, (B) IT HONORED PRUDENCE OF CARAMANLIS WHO NEVER IN COURSE OF PARIS EXILE INSTIGATED "BLOODY ADVENTURES", (C) IT HONORED A FORM OF DEMOCRACY WHICH AVOIDS EXTREMES AND (D) IT HONORS A CYPRUS POLICY WHICH DISASSOCIATES ITSELF FROM SECRET AGREEMENTS.

2. VRADYNI CALLS CARAMANLIS VICTORY "A BLOODLESS BUT SENSATIONAL REVOLUTION OF THE PEOPLE", WHICH PROVED THAT GREEK PEOPLE CAN

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FACE DOWN THE COUP OF THE "TANKS AND THE CIA" WITH THE BALLOT.

IT GOES ON TO AFFIRM THAT PEOPLE NOW EXPECT FROM THEIR ELECTED LEADER A FIRM DEMOCRACY, NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE AND ECONOMIC PROSPERITY. VRADYNI DECLARES FLATLY PEOPLE BY THEIR VOTE NOT ONLY CHOSE A LEADER, AND A POLITICAL PARTY, BUT THEY ALSO OPTED FOR NATIONAL DIGNITY, POLITICAL STABILITY AND TRANQUILITY, THUS BLOCKING FOREVER THE ROAD TOWARDS TANKS, DICTATORSHIPS AND "FOREIGN AGENTS WITH DARK EYEBLASSES."

3. LEFTIST-ORIENTED AVGHI ACKNOWLEDGED THAT CARAMANLIS' SUCCESS WAS SIGNIFICANT AND CARRIED A WEIGHT WHICH "CANNOT BE DISPUTED". AVGHI RECOMMENDS TO ITS READERS THAT THE LEFT RECONSIDER ITS POLICIES, SUGGESTING INTER ALIA THAT A LACK OF ORGANIZATION AND FACT THAT YOUTH DID NOT VOTE HAD CONTRIBUTED TO LEFT'S POOR SHOWING. HOWEVER, AVGHI DECLARES IT IS "OUR DESIRE TO SEE NORMALCY RESTORED" AND WITH THAT IN MIND" WE CONSIDER WE HAVE A NATIONAL OBLIGATION -- AND NOT JUST A NEGATIVE ROLE -- TO CARRY OUT".

4. RISOSPASTIS, REFLECTING THE THINKING OF THE KKE OF THE EXTERIOR, DECLARED THAT THE ELECTION RESULTS DID NOT REFLECT THE REAL SENTIMENTS OR ACTUAL DESIRES OF THE PEOPLE. EDITORIAL DECLARES THAT "STRENGTH OF THE LEFT IS MUCH GREATER". IT BLAMED LEFT'S POOR SHOWING ON FACTS BOTH THAT CARAMANLIS "TERRORIZED PEOPLE" AND THAT "ANDREAS WITH HIS IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE PUSHED MANY VOTERS TOWARD THE CENTER AND TOWARDS CARAMANLIS." ELLINIKON MELLON HEADLINED CARAMANLIS VICTORY WITH WISHFUL CAPTION "SEVERE DEFEAT OF THE ANTI-ROYALISTS". EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT NOW THAT PARLIAMENTARY SYSTEM HAS BEEN RESTORED, GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS ARE IN THE OFFING -- AND "MONARCHICAL DEMOCRACY IS ONE OF THEM."

5. ELEFTHEROS COSMOS MORALIZES IN ITS EDITORIAL AND STATES THAT "THE NEWBORN FUNCTIONING DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON FUTURE BEHAVIOR OF POLITICAL PARTIES." IT NOTES THAT CARAMANLIS HOLDS UNRESERVED CONFIDENCE OF THE PEOPLE AND OTHER PARTIES MUST NOW ENGAGE IN CONSTRUCTIVE OPPOSITION AND NOT RETURN TO STERILE, INCENDIARY POLICY OF PAST. MEANWHILE ESTIA STATES THAT "NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR CELEBRATION SINCE PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY ARE SO CRITICAL". PAPER ASSERTS THAT CARAMANLIS HAS BEEN GIVEN MANDATE FOR SAVING THE COUNTRY BUT THAT THIS MANDATE IS NOT DUE ALONE TO HIS PERSONALITY OR VOTER PREFERENCE FOR HIS PARTY. IT IS RATHER A RECOGNITION ON THE PART OF ELECTORATE THAT CARAMANLIS IS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ONLY ONE CAPABLE OF STOPPING DOWNWARD SLIDE TOWARD WHICH COUNTRY BEING LED".

6. TO VIMA INJECTED A SHARE OF SOUR GRAPES INTO ITS EDITORIALIZING BY SUGGESTING THAT GREAT MAJORITY GIVEN TO CARAMANLIS SHOWS THAT PEOPLE STILL BEAR THE "COMPLES OF THE SHIPWRECKED" FOLLOWING THE SEVEN YEAR DICTATORSHIP. TO VIMA SUGGESTS CARAMANLIS' APPEAL WAS DIRECTED TOWARDS TRANQUILITY RATHER THAN CHANGE AND THIS APPEAL

MET WITH RECEPTIVITY IN MENTALITY OF THE VOTERS.
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